

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-12 now stand in the present application, claims 1 and 4 having been amended and new claims 9-12 having been added. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claims 1 and 4 for an informality. As noted above, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 4 in order to correct the technical deficiencies pointed out by the Examiner. Accordingly, the claims as amended are believed to overcome the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Riggins et al. in view of Rosenblatt et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's § 103 rejections of the claims.

The cited prior art references both discuss the principle of storing data generated locally at a central location so that it can be retrieved from another computer at a subsequent session. These systems both store files that have been modified by the user in one session, and allow access to those files from another computer (or the same one) at a subsequent occasion. It is however apparent that the data is only backed up periodically - see e.g. Rosenblatt column 5, lines 40-52, rather than being tracked more or less continuously, as would be necessary for Applicants' invention and as is described on page 6 line 18 to page 7 line 9 of the present specification and as required by, for example, the claim limitations in independent claims 1 and 4, directed to storing, diverting and transferring.

This is because the present claims require the capability to transfer an actual session from one terminal to another. Both prior art systems envisage running different sessions from different terminals, the data necessary to do this being stored centrally. However, to transfer from one terminal to another, it would still be necessary to close the session on the first terminal and then open a new session on the second. For the reasons described in the present specification (page 3, lines 4-8, of the published international specification) this can be inconvenient. As stated on lines 9-11 of the same page, the object of Applicants' invention is to allow an individual session to be transferred from one terminal to another (see also *inter alia*, the preambles and transferring limitation of independent claims 1 and 4). This is not the same as storing the data generated by one session for subsequent retrieval in another session.

One key difference in implementation is that Applicants describe caching all browsed web pages, so that a search can be continued, in particular so that the user can return to one of the pages retrieved earlier in the session. Such cached information does not survive the closure of a session, but can be retrieved following the transfer of a single session from one terminal to another. More particularly, independent claims 1 and 4 required storing the parameters defining the virtual terminal, said parameters, including details of current communications made using a first terminal."

Another significant difference in operation is that Applicants' invention allows the transfer to be initiated from the originating terminal (see page 6, lines 5-11, of present specification, and, *inter alia*, independent claim limitations 1 and 4 directed to transferring). In the prior art references this cannot happen, because the original session has already been closed, probably some time before the new one is opened.

Also, in both of the prior art systems, although two terminals may access the same data simultaneously from the central database, they are not running the same session. The virtual terminal shadows the status of the real one, and is capable of transferring that information to another real terminal if required to do so. (See, for example, independent claims 1 and 4 limitations to diverting.)

There is therefore a practical difference between the present invention and the prior art, and this difference enables tasks to be performed that the prior art is unable to support. Neither prior art reference describes the transfer details of a current session from one terminal to another, and specifically none of the passages in Riggins cited by the examiner as disclosing this feature (col. 3, lines 30-40, col. 7, lines 13-25, col. 8, lines 4-18) actually do so. Both cited references describe operations in which the terminals access the database at the beginning of a new session.

Accordingly, all of claims 1-12, now standing in the application are now believed to patentably define over the cited references taken either singly or in combination. More particularly, the cited references do not teach or suggest transferring the details of a current session to a second terminal for use in continuing the session, as required by all of the present claims.

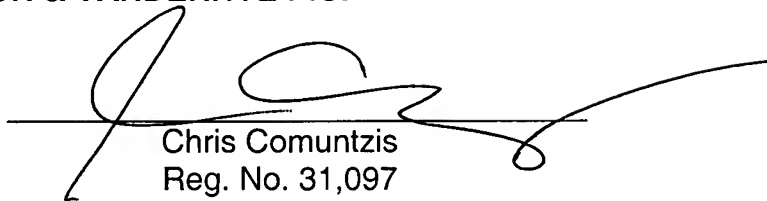
Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 1-12, now standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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